

January 17, 2022

Montgomery County Council  
100 Maryland Avenue, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to express that I object the proposal to enforce vaccine passports in Montgomery County. As council members that represent the citizens of the county, I implore you to reject the council's recommendation to push this legislation forward in understanding that an overwhelming majority of the community in which you serve are vehemently opposed.

We have more scientific and medical knowledge about the SARS-CoV-2, its prevention, management and treatment such as medications. Enforcing extreme measures such as vaccine passports is obsolete.

There are collective and scientific evidence that:

1. A person can transmit and get infected with the CoV virus whether they are vaccinated or not. In my experience as a registered nurse working in one of the hospitals in Montgomery County, there is no big difference between the number and acuity of our CoV patients who got the vaccine or not. Another is that our staff is further short staffed of the staff getting sick in spite of the CoV vaccine mandate. As of now in my unit, those staff, who are unvaccinated (with medical/religious exemptions) and undergoes weekly testing, are negative for CoV.
2. There is no circumstantial evidence that vaccinations will remain effective against SARS-CoV-2 variants.
3. The Omicron is a mild variant that transmits easily but only give symptoms of a cold to most. This will help communities to achieve herd immunity better than vaccinations.
4. We are close to seeing the end of the SARS-Cov-3 pandemic without forced vaccinations. Enforcing vaccine passports in obsolete.
5. We have more scientific and medical knowledge and advancements on treating SARS-CoV-2 than ever before. We have the treatment and anti-virals already. Extreme measures to contain the virus is a thing of the past.
6. Newer variants is typically weaker that people with normal immune system are able to tolerate better. We will have a community of people more adapted to endure future variants with or without vaccinations.

Community effects of passing "proof of vaccination":

1. County residents will become patrons of businesses in adjacent counties instead. It will be detrimental to the economy of the county and close down businesses.
2. Additional losses for the economy when employees are required to show proof of vaccination because they will look for employment elsewhere.
3. A large number of individuals are against forced vaccination, regardless of their vaccination status.
4. Passing this legislation would be a significant move away from the true democratic leadership. It will affect where people choose to live creating an exodus out of the county.
5. Requiring any vaccination passport sets a precedence that individuals no longer have the rights to make their own decisions regarding their body.

Thank you for taking time to read my concerns. I enjoy being a resident of Montgomery County and entrust you to realize that rejecting the COVID vaccination requirement for entering businesses will be most beneficial in helping this county recover from the past couple of years.

Sincerely,   
Selah Dove H. Senina, BSN, RN